



2010-2014 City of Rockford Consolidated Plan 2014 Action Plan



Community Development Block Grant Program(CDBG)

- The primary objective of the CDBG program is the development of viable communities, by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment and expanding economic opportunities, principally for persons of low and/or moderate income.
 - Proposed New 2014 Funding Level \$2,054,135

ELIGIBLE USES
Acquisition and Selling of Real Property
Public Facilities and Improvement
Clearance, Demolition and Relocation of Buildings
Public Services Including Daycare and Fair Housing Activities
Interim Assistance Including Emergency Street Repairs and Improvements
Relocation
Loss of Rental Income Due To Relocation as a Result of CDBG Activities
Removal of Architectural Barriers which Restrict Disabled Mobility
Assistance to Privately-Owned Utilities
Rehabilitation and Preservation Activities
Code Enforcement
Special Economic Development Assistance by City or Non-Profit Entity
Commercial or Industrial Improvement by City or Non-Profit Entity
Special Activities by Sub-Recipients
Planning and Capacity Building
Program Administrative Costs

Home Investment Partnership Program (HOME)

- **Proposed New 2014 Funding Level \$819,929**
Grants to States and units of government to implement local housing strategies designed to increase home ownership and affordable housing opportunities for low and very low income persons

ELIGIBLE USES
Rehabilitation of Existing Property
Conversion of an Existing Structure to Affordable Residential Housing
Reconstruction Utilizing Existing Foundation
New Construction Under Certain Circumstances
Tenant-Based Rental Assistance
Acquisition of Property
Relocation Costs
Project “Soft Costs”
Administrative Costs

Emergency Solutions Grants Program (ESG)

- **Proposed New 2014 Funding Level \$139,919**
 - The purpose of the Emergency Solutions Grants Program is to help those who are homeless and those who are in eminent danger of becoming homeless. The program was revised as a result of the HEARTH Act of 2009. Below are the expanded eligible activities :

Eligible Activities:
Street Outreach
Homeless Prevention/Rapid Rehousing
Operations
Rehab/Conversion
Essential Services

Regulatory Requirements

- Program administration expenses and public service activities are within the regulatory caps of 20% and 15% respectively.
- The City is also in compliance with the requirement that 70% of CDBG expenditures benefit low and moderate income.
- HOME required set-aside for Community Housing Development Organizations is 15% of the grant.
- Rockford is well within its ESG Administrative cap of 7.5%.
- Rockford is also meeting its priority needs: decent affordable housing, economic development, and neighborhood stabilization.

Rehabilitation Programs

- A grant for \$15,000 to the Regional Access Mobilization Project (RAMP) to cover operational and contractual costs necessary to construct access ramps for 6 low income, mobility challenged households.
 - Grant Agreement signed in July with RAMP.
 - 8 Environmental Reviews in process.
- 35 units were projected to be assisted through the single family owner-occupied rehabilitation program
 - 13 units assisted through the Focus Area Rehabilitation Program
- Additional Resources for Rehabilitation
 - Federal Home Loan Bank of Chicago and its local members
 - Applied for 2 Illinois Housing Development Authority Grants; one awarded to date.
 - Partnered with a number of agencies and received notice of Attorney General Madigan's National Foreclosure Settlement Award for \$2.5 million.



Before



After

Code Enforcement

- This activity assists with the salaries and overhead costs associated with the enforcement of state and local codes and supports staff working in the CDBG area.
- As of July 2013, 5,187 violations have been addressed, and of those addressed 3,311 were located in the CDBG eligible area. 306 tickets have been issued for vehicle violations.



Homebuyer Assistance

- 23 homebuyers were projected to be assisted in 2013
 - Homebuyer Assistance for homes developed using federal funds
 - Homebuyer Assistance Program - 16
 - New CHDO Projects – 2
 - Existing CHDO Projects - 5
 - 2 homebuyers purchased property developed using Federal funds
- 1 rehabilitated NSP home sold



Assistance To Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDO's)

The Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act of 2012 required that CHDO's demonstrate enhanced development capacity in order to receive financial assistance including operation funds. Ongoing consultations have been facilitated to assist current CHDO's in meeting the requirements.

- Memorandum of understanding initiated with Bridge Rockford as "Master" CHDO.

Acquisition, Relocation, and Disposition

- 19 properties are planned to be demolished to remove blight conditions using one of three processes: fast track, emergency demolition or donation/demolition. Seven properties have been demolished with CDBG funds this year.



Partnerships

- Human Services (HS)
- Home Start
- Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA)
- Northwestern Illinois Area Agency on Aging (NIAAA)
- Regional Access Mobilization Program (RAMP)
- Winnebago County Health Dept.
- Rockford Housing Authority (RHA)
- Habitat for Humanity
- Project Facelift Partners:

- * Engage (Joplin, MO)
- * New Zion Missionary Baptist Church
- * SWIFTT
- * Rockford Park District
- * Public Works
- * Senator Syverson
- * Ald. Venita Hervey



- * Rock River Reclamation Dist.
- * RACVB
- * Neighborhood Network
- * Code Enforcement
- * SWEEP
- * Comprehensive Community Solution
- * Morning Star Church

Public Services activities funded with CDBG funds:

- A \$500,000 grant to the Discovery Center Museum dispersed over ten years in \$50,000 increments to expand the Twenty-First Century after school programs at Nashold and Lathrop Elementary Schools.
 - 279 children have been assisted.
- Swim N More
 - 149 children have been provided swim lessons.
- Project Facelift
 - 50 children to be served through Salter Pocket Park.



Emergency Solutions Grant Program

With the passage of the HEARTH Act, new opportunities and new regulations affect ESG:

- Increase in administration funds from 5% to 7.5%, the city currently splits the administrative funds with subgrantee agencies.
- Requirement that no more than 60% is spent of shelter services and encouragement to place as much funding as possible into homeless prevention and rapid rehousing.

2012 ESG Recipients

- **Remedies** \$33,282 (Operations)
 \$1,374 (Administration)
- **MELD** \$20,338 (Operations)
 \$811 (Administration)
- **Prairie State** \$22,187 (Essential Services)
 \$874 (Administration)
- **Shelter Care** \$16,640 (Operations)
 \$3,185 (Administration)
 \$61,632 (HPRP-Homeless Prevention)
- **City of Rockford** \$6,246 (Administration)

2013 ESG Funding Requests

Current 2013 ESG funds have just gone through the RFP Process with the City of Rockford. In accordance with HUD HEARTH guidelines, grant applications are being reviewed by the local homeless Continuum of Care. They will be conducting this process later this week. There were 4 applications for funding and the requests are as follows:

- Prairie State \$17,500 (Essential Services)
 \$17,500 (Housing Relocation & Stabalization)
- Bridge Rockford \$40,000 (HMIS)
- Remedies \$25,000 (Essential Services)
- MELD \$20,338 (Operations)
 \$10,000 (HPRP-Rapid Re-housing)
 \$10,000 (HPRP—Homeless Prevention)

Total funds available for this funding process are \$139,919

Rehabilitation and Development Assistance

- This program provides assistance to businesses or developers making investments within designated areas or creating/retaining permanent jobs.
- In 2013, four businesses have been assisted to date:
 - Bella Luna Bakery-308 W. State St. (Stewart Square)/Italian Bakery
 - All Paws Dog Grooming – 130 N. 1st St./Dog Grooming & Daycare
 - Krispy Krunchy Chicken– 479 N. Springfield Ave./Chicken Franchise Business
 - CJ's Custom Cuts – 1813 15th Ave./Barber shop relocation from North Main Roundabout

LMA Facade Improvement

- Program provides façade improvements in CDBG eligible areas to assist businesses and help stabilize neighborhoods.
 - 302 E. State St./CJ's Lounge (Downtown Area) has been assisted through this program in 2013.

Microenterprise Assistance

- **Self Employment Training Program** – The RVC Small Business Development Center (SBDC) provides assistance to individuals creating and retaining businesses.
 - Offered three times a year and includes eight sessions.
 - An English and Spanish version class is held each year; Spanish currently in session.
 - A Storefront session will also be added in the Fall Session of this year.
 - Goal is to assist 42 persons; 4 persons have been assisted to date.

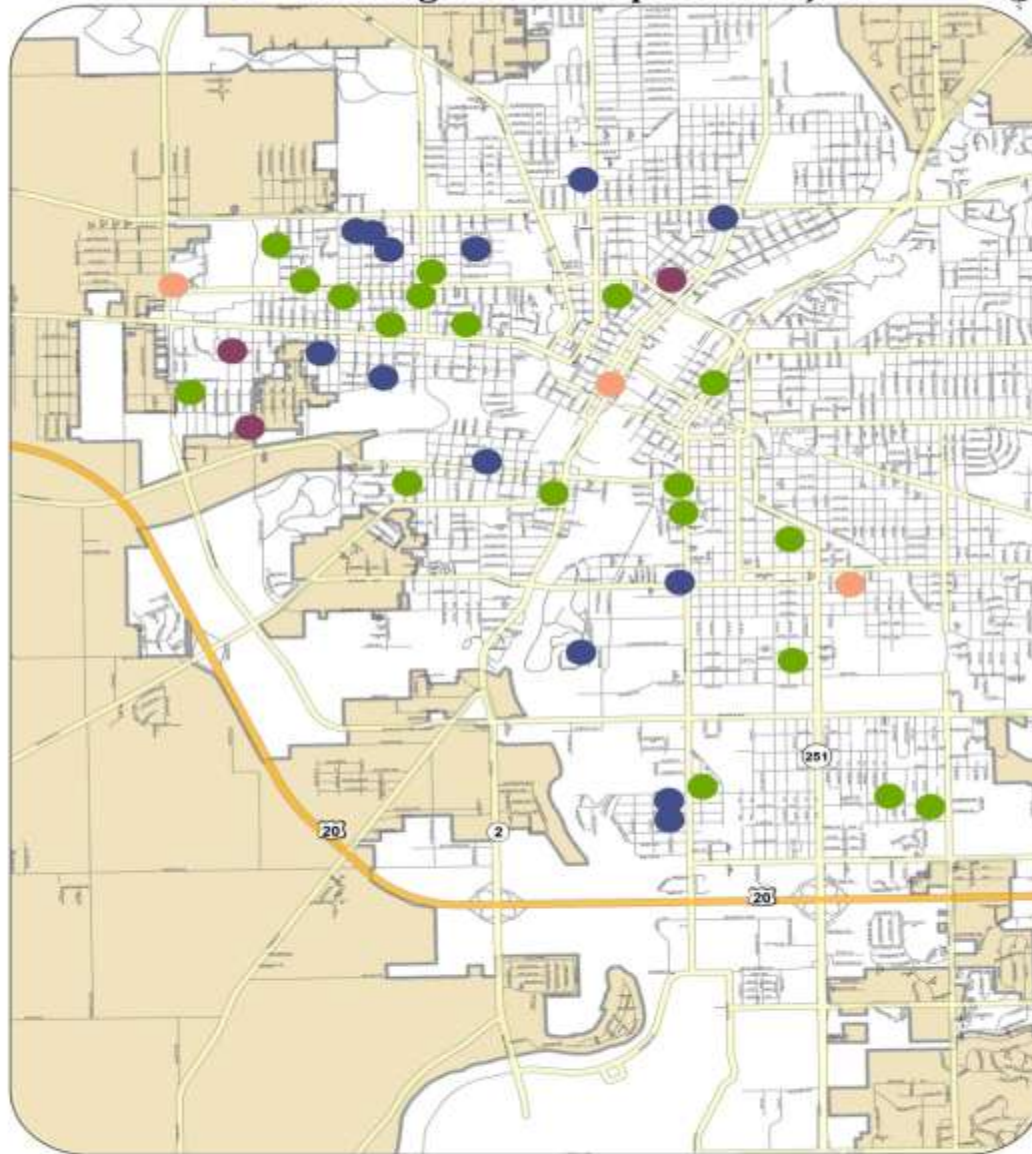


Microenterprise Assistance

- **Manufacturing Self Employment Training Program** – The RVC Small Business Development Center (SBDC) provides assistance to individuals creating and retaining businesses.
- This class includes eight sessions and was held in the first quarter of the year and 11 persons were assisted. Goal is to assist 24 persons.



HUD Planning and Development Projects



- Demolition
- Homebuyers Assistance
- Homeowner - Single Family Housing - Existing and New
- Rehabilitation and Development Assistance

Schedule of Continuation of Process

2014 Consolidated Plan Action Plan Update Proposed Timeline

Date	Activity
June 10 - 13	Hold initial meeting with to evaluate current programs and discuss ideas
June 17 - 26	Continue to evaluate current programs
June 28 or 29	Hold ND/ED budget planning session(s)
July 1 - August 2	Develop draft Action Plan Budget
August 6 or 7	Meet with Administration to present draft plan budget
August 15	Hold first public input session
August 16 - September 12	Complete narrative portions of plan to correspond with proposed budget
September 9- 12	Meet with Aldermen and share proposed plan
September 12	Hold second public input session and present draft plan
September 16	Read Plan into City Council with pending date for committee review of 10/21 & publish Plan for 30 comment period
September 17	30 day comment period begins
September 17 - October 18	Additional discussions with Aldermen if needed
October 18	30 day comment period ends
October 21	Plan is discussed at Planning & Development committee
October 28	Committee discussion continued If needed
November 4	Receive City Council approval
November 13	Submit to HUD
December 15	Publish request for release of funds

Questions?